(a) whether Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) had issued an order recently prohibiting the practice of piling Government officials/ officers with gifts on important festivals and other parties/functions;

(b) if so, what are the salient features of the order issued by the CVC;

(c) what method the CVC is using to curb the practice of providing gifts to officers of PSUs, banks and other Government organisations;

(d) whether under CSS rules, Government officials are debarred from obtaining gifts of the value of more than Rs. 25/-; and

(e) if so, the reasons for duplication of work by issuing an order by the CVC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) to (c) The Central Vigilance Commission has issued a circular banning the presentation of gifts by Public Sector Undertakings and Government Agencies to the public servants. The Chief Vigilance Officers of the respective organizations have been asked to monitor the expenditure in their organizations.

(d) Central Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964, provide that a Government Servant shall not accept any gift without the sanction of the Government, if the value of such gifts exceeds Rs. 1000/-, in the case of officials holding the posts of Group 'A' and 'B', and Rs. 250/- in the case of Group 'C' and 'D' officials.

(e) CVC issued aforesaid order to discourage practice of accepting gifts by Government officials. Such orders are issued from time to time by the CVC to reiterate and reinforce the already existing instructions.

Moratorium in Government Appointments

866. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all appointments in the Government remain under moratorium;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) if not, the exemptions and the details thereof;

(d) whether moratorium on appointments also include those on compassionate ground; and

(e) if so, whether this moratorium does not violate the very principle of appointment on compassionate ground?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) No Sir.

(b) to (e) In view of (a) above, do not arise.

Disparity in Pay Scales of Editor

867. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a disparity in the pay scales and the status of the post of editor in various Central Government Departments and ministries;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and if not, the names of the departments/ ministries where this post exists and the pay scale and status attached to it; and

(c) the steps taken to remove the disparity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) to (c) There is no common cadre for the post of Editor as these are isolated posts created by respective Ministries/Departments, if so required, according to the functional/operational needs. Designation-wise details of various posts are not centrally maintained by the Government. Accordingly, it is not possible to say whether or not there is disparity in pay scales and status of these posts unless some specific cases are brought to the notice and the same are examined having regard to the method of recruitment, duties and responsibilities attached to the post and the horizontal and vertical relativities with other posts concerned.

SC Ruling on Similar Jobs

868. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS be pleased to state :